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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/826,819

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Leonard T. Chapman

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EXAMINER

SAUNDERS, PAUL

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/826,819	Applicant(s) CHAPMAN, LEONARD T.	
	Examiner PAUL SAUNDERS	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 1/11/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5 under Gottschalk have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kuhn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. **Claim 1,3-5,8,15-19** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
- i. Gotschalk (US 4,158,490) in view of
 - ii. Kuhn (US 4,221,353).

Regarding **claim 1**, Gottschalk in view of Kuhn (refer to the rejection of claim 5) discloses a camera support, comprising: a base (Gottschalk 63); an isolator plate attached to the base and pivotable in a vertical direction; one or more springs for exerting a spring force between the base and the plate; and one or more dampening elements for exerting a dampening force between the base and the plate.

Regarding **claim 3**, Gottschalk in view of Kuhn (refer to the rejection of claim 5) discloses a camera support, comprising: a vertical axis system including:

a base (Gottschalk 48); an arm pivotably attached to the base at a first location; at least one spring connected to the base and to the arm, wherein the spring is connected to the base above or below the first location so that the spring is substantially not parallel with the arm (Gottschalk fig. 5); at least one dampener connected to the base and to the arm; a horizontal axis system supported by the vertical axis system; and a leveling linkage connecting the vertical and horizontal axis systems.

Regarding **claim 4**, Gottschalk further discloses the camera support of claim 3 further including adjustment features for adjusting the leveling linkage to compensate for angulation movement of the base (col. 4 lines 10-30, col. 5 lines 15-37 – the weight of the camera is relieved from the cameraman's hands by the adjustable spring, and piston assembly in which the camera "floats" even with the varying angularities introduced by the cameraman walking and running).

Regarding **claim 5**, Gottschalk discloses a shock and vibration isolator for a camera, comprising: first and second spaced apart side plates 48 (fig. 3 – the two protruding sides of 48 constitute side plates); an axle 51 connecting to the side plates (fig. 3, 5); an arm 46 attached to the axle, with the arm pivotable relative to the side plates 48 (fig. 5, 6, col. 3 lines 12-16); a bar 53 attached to the side plates 48 (col. 3 lines 18); at least one spring 91 connected to the arm 46 (fig. 3, col. 4 lines 3-5, 10-15 –as shown in the figures since the dampener as

described is mounted to the arm 46 so is the spring assembly; further as shown, the spring and dampener assemblies are together one assembly sharing two mount points one fixed to arm 46 and one fixed to level 47); at least one viscous dampener 83 connected to the arm (col. 4 lines 3-5 – connected being mounted on); first and second spaced apart leveling plates 44 pivotably attached to the arm (fig. 3, col. 3 lines 14-16 – the two protruding sides of 44 constitute side plates); and first and second leveling rods 47 pivotably attached respectively to the first and second side plates (fig. 5, col. 3 lines 12-14, 16-18).

Gottschalk does not expressly disclose the spring and dampener connected to the bar.

Kuhn discloses support structure having a spring 58 and a dampener 124 connected to a bar 42 (fig. 2, col. 3 lines 24-25, col. 4 lines 21-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to connect the dampener and spring taught by Gottschalk both to the bar as taught by Kuhn because they are functional equivalents.

Regarding **claim 8**, Gottschalk further discloses the isolator of claim 5 further including means for adjusting tension in the springs (fig. 6, col. 4 lines 21-23).

Regarding **claim 15**, Gottschalk further discloses the camera support of claim 1 with the spring exerting a spring force at an angle of 2-15 degrees to a

plane of the isolator plate (fig. 5 – a plane of the isolator plate 44 at it's top shows the spring 93 exerting force at point 50 within 15 degrees of said plane).

Regarding **claim 16**, Gottschalk further discloses the camera support of claim 1 further comprising a camera mounting plate 21 pivotably supported on the isolator plate (fig. 5 – the camera can pivot), and a levelling system associated with the mounting plate and the isolator plate (arm 15 provides a leveling system regardless of the vertical pivot of the arm), for keeping the camera mounting plate level as the isolator plate pivots vertically (fig. 5, 6 15).

Regarding **claim 17**, Gottschalk in view of Kuhn (refer to the rejection of claim 5) discloses a camera support comprising: a base assembly (Gottschalk 63) adapted to be mounted on a camera dolly or a camera crane (Gottschalk 16); an isolator arm attached to, and vertically pivotable about, a first element on the base assembly; at least one spring attached to a second element on the base assembly and to a first portion of the arm spaced apart from the base assembly; and at least one dampening element attached to the base assembly and to a second portion of the arm spaced apart from the base assembly.

Regarding **claim 18**, Gottschalk as viewed discloses the camera support of claim 17 wherein the dampening element is attached to the second element on the base assembly.

Regarding **claim 19**, Gottschalk in view of Kuhn (refer to the rejection of claim 5) discloses a camera support system, comprising: a camera crane (Gottschalk 16); a base (Gottschalk 63) attached onto the camera crane (attachment point to crane not specified); an isolator vertically pivotable about the base; a spring attached to the base and to the isolator, wherein the spring is substantially at an acute angle relative to the isolator; and a dampening element attached to the base and to the isolator.

4. **Claims 2,9-12** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

i. Gotschalk (US 4,158,490) in view of

ii. Kuhn (US 4,221,353)

as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of

iii. Chapman (US 4,989,823).

Regarding **claim 2**, Samuelson discloses the camera support of claim 1 further comprising a leveling system associated with the plate and the horizontal isolator assembly (fig. 5, 6, 7 – leveling system comprising elements 34, 35, 40 that cause elements 36 and 4 to remain level).

Samuelson as viewed does not expressly disclose a horizontal isolator assembly supported by the plate.

Chapman discloses a horizontal isolator assembly (figs. 2-7, col. 1 lines 44-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the

art at the time of the invention to modify the camera mount to further employ a horizontal isolator assembly taught by Chapman in order to further dampen swinging of the camera mount (Chapman col. 1 lines 16-19, 44-46).

Regarding **claim 9**, Gottschalk as viewed does not expressly disclose the isolator of claim 5 further including a horizontal axis isolator supported on the leveling plates

Chapman discloses a horizontal axis isolator supported by a level camera support (figs. 2-7, col. 1 lines 44-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the camera mount taught by Gottschalk to further incorporate between the camera mount and the camera the horizontal isolator as taught Chapman in order to prevent shock and vibration disturbances (col. 1 lines 16-19, 44-46).

Regarding **claim 10**, Chapman further discloses the isolator of claim 9 with the horizontal axis isolator including a first longitudinal bar 18 slidable through a first fitting 60 on the first leveling plate, and a second longitudinal bar 20 slidable through a second fitting 62 on the second leveling plate, and a first lateral bar 22 and a second lateral bar 24 extending between and supported by the first and second longitudinal bars (fig. 2 28 30 32 34), and a mounting plate 16 slidable along the first and second lateral bars (fig. 3-7 – 14 appears square wherein longitude and latitude are indistinguishable).

Regarding **claim 11**, Chapman further discloses the isolator of claim 10 with the first and second lateral bars having a radius of curvature of 60-168 inches (fig. 6, col. 3 lines 26-38).

Regarding **claim 12**, Chapman further discloses the isolator of claim 10 further comprising lateral springs acting to hold the mounting plate at a lateral central location on the lateral bars, and longitudinal springs acting to hold the mounting plate at a longitudinal central location on the longitudinal bars (fig. 3, col. 2 lines 55-59); a pair of lateral dampeners 52 attached to the mounting plate; and a pair of longitudinal dampeners 52 attached to the mounting plate (fig. 3, 7).

5. **Claim 6** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

i. Gotschalk (US 4,158,490) in view of

ii. Kuhn (US 4,221,353)

as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of

iii. Dykyj (US 6,752,541 B1).

Regarding **claim 6**, Gottschalk as viewed does not expressly disclose the isolator of claim 5 further including a turnbuckle between the arm and the spring.

Dykyj discloses using a turnbuckle 33 between a spring 32 and a connection point to maintain an adjustable tension. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the

adjustable springs taught by Gottschalk to be turnbuckle adjustable as taught above by Dykij in order to allow manual adjustment of the tension in the assembly (Dykij col. 9 lines 50-60)

6. **Claim 7** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
- i. Gottschalk (US 4,158,490) in view of
 - ii. Kuhn (US 4,221,353)
- as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of
- iii. Sweere (US 5,876,008).

Regarding **claim 7**, Gottschalk as viewed does not expressly disclose the isolator of claim 5 further including one or more alternate attachment positions for the leveling rods on the side plates or the leveling plates.

Sweere discloses a support structure having one or more alternate attachment positions for a leveling rod (fig. 1, col. 4 lines 32-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ multiple attachment positions as taught by Sweere in order to allow manual adjustment as desired (col. 4 lines 50-53).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claims 20, 21** objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dittrich (US 4,465,277) teaches a bar connected to spring and dampener.

Chapman (US 6,579,016 B2) camera support mounted on crane or dolly.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL SAUNDERS whose telephone number is (571)270-3319. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NgocYen Vu can be reached on 571.272.7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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***/Ngoc-Yen T. VU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622***